

and comfort on the family during this time of sorrow.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH 84TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and high regards that I congratulate St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, as it celebrates its 84th anniversary as a parish this coming Sunday. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Everett Gray on this magnificent occasion.

From modest beginnings, St. Paul's has emerged as a cornerstone of the Gary community. The church was organized in 1916 through the efforts of six dedicated pioneers. The first structure was a portable building of the 21st Avenue school. Through the hard work of Reverend Martin VanBuren Bolden and the six founders, the membership continued to grow, and on July 17, 1917, two lots were purchased at 1938 Adams Street. It was there that St. Paul's began to flourish as both a religious and a social institution.

During the Great Depression, the people of St. Paul's saw the needs of those around them and reached out a helping hand. The church basement was used as both a medical facility and a place where those in need could go for food. Their generosity was exemplified when the church donated money to those who could not afford the burial expenses for loved ones that had recently passed away. St. Paul's shaped the lives of many people during those hard times and still stands as a pillar of our community.

On May 1, 1943, St. Paul's welcomed Dr. Lester Kendal Jackson as its pastor, who made an immediate impact on his congregation. Under his leadership all outstanding debts were paid, and a significant balance was put into the treasury. He helped to organize many groups which would inspire the youth of the parish, including a literary society, Girl and Boy Scout teams, and a drama club. Dr. Jackson also fought for the rights of African Americans throughout the city of Gary, and was later inducted into the Steel City Hall of Fame for his contributions to the community.

After a fire in 1963 destroyed the building that they had used for over 45 years, the people of St. Paul's erected a new church at 2300 Grant Street on January 16, 1966. It is here that the church came under the direction of Reverend Everett Gray, or Pastor Gray, as he prefers to be addressed. Under Pastor's Gray's guidance, St. Paul's has continued to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me congratulating the parish family of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, under the guidance of Pastor Gray, as they celebrate their 84th anniversary. All current and former parishioners can be proud to say that they belong to the second oldest

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Baptist church in Gary, Indiana. They have weathered many storms in order to make countless significant contributions to their community throughout the past 84 years.

NEW MASSACRE OF SIKHS IN
INDIA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today, as President Clinton began a visit to India, a new act of political violence occurred in Kashmir, as 35 Sikh villagers were rounded up and killed by gunmen. The New York Times reports in the enclosed article that this was the first major attack on the small Sikh community in Kashmir since an insurgency by Kashmiri Muslims against Indian rule began 10 years ago. Sikhs had previously lived peacefully in the only predominantly Muslim area of India. It should be noted that in India, government security forces have been implicated by international human rights organizations in the murders, disappearances and torture of thousands of Sikhs.

The village of Chati Singhpora Mattan, 42 miles from Srinagar, is controlled by Kashmiri groups that abandoned the rebellion and were recruited by the Indian army as a counterinsurgency militia force. The Indian government has blamed Islamic radicals controlled by Pakistan for this heinous crime. However, the Indian government's control of this specific area has caused many Sikhs in the United States to believe that the gunmen were agents of the Indian government's Research and Intelligence Wing [RAW] posing as Kashmiri militants. There are more than 700,000 Indian security forces stationed in Kashmir, which has been called the most militarized area of this planet.

A fair and impartial investigation by international monitors is necessary to resolve this case and other acts of brutality committed in Kashmir. I have repeatedly advocated that fair elections, free of violence, that would permit the people of Kashmir to determine their own destiny is the best means to end this conflict. In addition, a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue would have a significant impact in easing the conflict between India and Pakistan.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 21, 2000]

35 MASSACRED IN SIKH TOWN IN KASHMIR

Srinagar, India, Tuesday, March 21 (AP)—Gunmen rounded up and killed 35 Sikh villagers in the disputed state of Kashmir, the police said today as President Clinton began a visit to India.

The massacre on Monday night was the first major attack on the small Sikh community in Kashmir since separatist Muslims started their insurgency 10 years ago. Sikhs are considered a neutral minority, but Indian officials had warned earlier of violence by Muslim militants hoping to draw attention to Kashmir during Mr. Clinton's visit.

Both India and Pakistan claim the Himalayan territory and have fought two wars over it.

The gunmen were not immediately

March 21, 2000

Mr. Clinton arrived in New Delhi, 400 miles to the south, on Monday evening after a visit to Bangladesh. He has said that reducing tensions between India and Pakistan is one of his objectives of the trip.

Many Kashmiris were hoping that the president's visit would lead to a breakthrough in the long deadlock on the region's future.

Mr. Clinton's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, expressed outrage over the killings, saying in a statement that "out most profound sympathies go out to the victims of this brutal massacre."

The attackers entered the village of Chati Singhpora Mattan after dark and forced the residents from their homes, police officials said.

The assailants separated the men from the women, announcing that they were conducting a "crackdown." Indian security forces operate similarly when searching a neighborhood for militants that they suspect may be hiding there. The gunmen then opened fire on the men, killing 35 of them. One man was critically wounded.

Sikhs have lived mostly undisturbed in the Kashmir Valley, the only area in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority. Many run the trucking companies that supply the valley.

In the last six months, attacks by the militants have focused on army bases and patrols rather than random terrorism, and have shown a higher degree of training and expertise, senior army officers have said. They said about 3,500 militants were in Kashmir, and many of them had infiltrated the ceasefire line from Pakistan, with the help of the Pakistan army. Pakistan denies giving active aid to the militants.

The area of the Sikh village is about 42 miles from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and is controlled by armed Kashmiri groups that abandoned separatism and were recruited by the Indian army as a counterinsurgency auxiliary force.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 2000]

NEAR CLINTON'S INDIA VISIT, VIOLENCE

FLARES IN KASHMIR

(By Pamela Constable)

Srinagar, India, March 20—While their government and most of their countrymen are hoping President Clinton will play down the sensitive topic of Kashmir during his visit to India this week, people in this depressed, wintry city at the political heart of the disputed, violence-torn region are praying for just the opposite.

Today, in the worst single attack on civilians in a decade of guerrilla war, unidentified gunmen massacred 35 Sikh men in the Kashmiri village of Chati Singhpora Mattan, wire services reported. Security officials had feared that armed Pakistan-based insurgents, who have stepped up attacks here in recent months, might stage a dramatic attack during Clinton's stay in India.

Clinton condemned the attack in Kashmir. "On behalf of the president and all Americans let me express our outrage at the attack on a village in Kashmir last night," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters in New Delhi.

Many Kashmiris believe that only a world leader of Clinton's stature can put pressure on Indian officials to start meaningful negotiations with Pakistan over the mountainous, predominantly Muslim border region where separatist sentiment is strong, guerrilla violence is rapidly rising and

"If Mr. Clinton can make a difference in places like Chechnya and Bosnia, why not in